

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 SAJ-01 IO-10 /082 W

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R 291201Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

SECSTATE WASHDC 8585

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, TW

SUBJECT: THAI ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CONTINUING TAIWAN CONNECTION

REF: BANGKOK 12815

1. REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) CHARGE LING CHU-HSUN IS EXPECTED TO DEPART BANGKOK FOR TAIPEI 31 JULY. THERE ARE NO FINAL ARRANGEMENTS OR AGREEMENTS FOR HANDLING TRADE AND CONSULAR MATTERS ONCE THE ROC EMBASSY CLOSES, HOWEVER.

2. A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON JULY 28 THAT THE MFA, IN PRINCIPLE, OPPOSED ALLOWING THE ROC TO MAINTAIN ANY FORM OF SEMI-OFFICIAL TRADE OFFICE HERE. BUT HE COMMENTED WITH A NOTE OF CERTAINTY THAT THE "POWERFUL TAIWAN LOBBY" WOULD LIKELY PREVAIL IN THE END. THE OFFICIAL NOTED, IN
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AGREEMENT WITH THE GENERAL LINE OF SPECULATION IN THE

PRESS, THAT THIS TRADE REPRESENTATION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A PRIVATE TRADING COMPANY AND WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE A WIDE RANGE OF DECISIONS ON TRADE MATTERS.

3. INITIAL INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT AT LEAST SOME CONSULAR MATTERS MIGHT BE HANDLED THROUGH THE PRIVATE TRADING FIRM. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TRADING FIRM MIGHT ACCEPT VISA APPLICATIONS FROM THAI DESIRING TO TRAVEL TO TAIWAN AND FORWARD THE APPLICATIONS TO SINGAPORE FOR APPROVAL.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF CONTINUED TIES WITH THE ROC, AND IT SEEMS SURPRISING THAT AT THIS LATE DATE NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE TRADING FIRM. WE EXPECT THAT THE "TAIWAN LOBBY" THAT THE MFA OFFICIAL REFERRED TO IS EXERTING ITS INFLUENCE THROUGH THE BUSINESSMEN CONNECTED TO THE THAI MILITARY, AND QUITE POSSIBLY THE ROYAL FAMILY AND PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT.
WHITEHOUSE

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